

Remarks & Arguments

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that Claims 1-17 and 20-25 are pending in the application, and that Claims 1-7, 9-17 and 20-25 are rejected. By this amendment, Claim 10 has been amended. The amendments to the claims do not add new matter to the application. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

*Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103*

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,226,758 to Gaalaas and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0071132 to Sundqvist.

**Claim 10**, as amended, recites "determining if an associated set of audio processing modules utilize a common clock source from a unique identifier received from each of said plurality of audio processing modules, wherein each clock source has a different unique identifier." Accordingly, the Examiner's discussion of GUID is rendered moot.

Furthermore, the rejection clearly indicates that the Examiner fails to appreciate the difference between the "sample rate" of a clock and the "source" of a clock. Two clock signals having the same "sample rate" may be from a common clock source or from different clock sources operating at substantially the same "sample rate." However, even if two clock sources

are operating at the same “sample rate,” in a real world operating environment there will be variations between the “sample rate” of each clock. At best Sundqvist and Gaalaas only teach determining the “sample rate” of the clocks, and not the source of the clock. In fact, Sundqvist only discloses determining the sample rate of one of the clocks and assuming the sample rate of the other clock (See 0042). Furthermore, the system taught by Sundqvist implicitly teaches that the clocks are never from the same source. In contrast, Claim 10 recites “determining if an associated set of audio processing modules utilize **a common clock source** from a unique identifier received from each of said plurality of audio processing modules, wherein each clock source has a different unique identifier.”

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that Claim 10 is patentable over Gaalaas in view of Sundqvist. In addition, **Claims 11-16** are allowable by virtue of their dependency on respective base Claim 10, as well as the additional elements they recite. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the obviousness rejection of Claims 10-16 be withdrawn and that Claims 10-16 be allowed.

Claims 1-7, 9, 11-17 and 20-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,226,758 to Gaalaas, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0071132 to Sundqvist and U.S. Patent No. 6,005,901 to Linz.

With regard to **Claims 1, 17 and 21**, the rejection clearly indicates that the Examiner fails to appreciate the difference between the “sample rate” of a clock and the “source” of a clock. Two clock signals having the same “sample rate” may be from a common clock source or

from different clock sources operating at substantially the same “sample rate.” However, even if two clock sources are operating at the same “sample rate,” in a real world operating environment there will be variations between the “sample rate” of each clock. At best Sundqvist, Gaalaas and Linz only teach determining the “sample rate” of the clocks, and not the source of the clock. In fact, Sundqvist only discloses determining the sample rate of one of the clocks and assuming the sample rate of the other clock (See 0042). Furthermore, the system taught by Sundqvist and Linz implicitly teaches that the clocks are never from the same source. In contrast, Claim 1 for example recites “a clock manager communicatively coupled to said first and second audio processing modules, for determining a first clock source of said first audio processing module from an identifier of said first clock source received from said first audio processing module, for determining a second clock source of said second audio processing module from an identifier of said second clock source received from said second audio processing module, and for configuring said first and second audio processing modules and a sample rate converter as a function of said first clock source and said second clock source.”

In addition, accordingly to the teaching of Gaalaas, Sundqvist and Linz, if the first and second clocks are determined to have the same “rate,” and yet they are in fact from different sources, the sample rate converters would not synchronize the flow rates instead the sample rate converters would be bypassed. In contrast, claim 1 for example recites “said sample rate converter communicatively coupled to said buffer and said clock manager, for synchronizing a first flow rate of said audio data generated by said first audio processing module and a second

flow rate of said audio data consumed by said second audio processing module when said first clock source is different from said second clock source.”

For each of the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 17 and 21 are patentable over Gaalaas and Sundqvist in view of Linz. In addition, **Claims 2-7, 9, 11-16, 20 and 22-25** are allowable by virtue of their dependency on respective base Claims 1, 10, 17 and 21, as well as the additional elements they recite. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness rejection of Claims 1-7, 9, 11-17 and 20-25 be withdrawn and that Claims 1-7, 9, 11-17 and 20-25 be allowed.

#### Conclusion

For all the reasons advanced above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and that action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 504160. In the event that an extension of time is required, or may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to

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charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account 504160.

Respectfully submitted,  
MURABITO, HAO & BARNES LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eric J. Gash", is positioned above a horizontal line.

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